(b) if so, the details of persons participated in the meeting;

(c) the outcome of the discussions held in the meeting; and

(d) the further steps taken by Government on the outcome of the discussions held in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The ninth meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council was held on 13th May, 2003 in New Delhi.

(b) The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and was attended by the Union Cabinet Ministers for Finance and Company Affairs, and Labour and the Chief Minister of Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, Minister for Finance and Legislative Affairs, and Special Representative (Cabinet Rank) of Andhra Pradesh, and Minister for Home and Minor Irrigation of Karnataka, besides officers from the Central and the State Government.

(c) and (d) The Standing Committee considered 17 recommendations of Sarkaria Commission's report on Centre-State relations to the subjects of Administrative Relations (one), Emergency Provisions (twelve) and Deployment of Union Armed Forces (four). In addition, the Standing Committee considered report of the sub-Committee of the Inter-State Council on contract labour and contract appointments, and implementation report on decisions taken by Inter-State Council on the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission. The recommendations of the Standing Committee are required to be placed in the next meeting of the Inter-State Council scheduled to be held on 27-28 August, 2003 in Srinagar, for its consideration.

Discussion in the meeting of inter-State Council's Standing Committee

314. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council had taken up for discussion the Emergency Provision of the Constitution on 13th May, 20C3;

(b) if so, whether the Committee had considered some other issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Centre's powers to give directions to the States under Articles 256 and 257 of the Constitution was also taken up by the Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (d) The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council in its Ninth meeting on 13th May, 2003 considered 17 recommendations of Sarkaria Commission's report on Centre-State relations relating to the subjects of Administrative Relations (one), Emergency Provisions (twelve) and Deployment of Union Armed Forces (four).

In addition, the Standing Committee considered the report of the Sub-Committee of the Inter-State Council on contract labour and contract appointments, and implementation report on the decision taken by the Inter-State Council on the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission.

The recommendation on 'Administrative Relations' which was considered in the above-mentioned meeting pertains to the power of the Union to give directions to States under articles 256 and 257 of the Constitution.

The recommendations of the Standing Committee are required to be placed in the next meeting of the Inter-State Council scheduled to be held on 27-28 August, 2003 in Srinagar, for its consideration.

Policy Shift in Jammu and Kashmir

315. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accorded policy shift in Jammu and Kashmir by appointing Mr. N.N. Vohra; and

(b) whether the mandate given to Mr. Vohra is different from that provided to Mr. K.C. Pant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir. Being open to talks with the people